

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, February 25, 1992

Published Since 1877

Romanian observations: Are Baptist efforts misdirected?

By Shannon T. Simpson

Last in a two-part series

Last week, the Baptist Record recounted the story of one Mississippi man's determination to make a difference in the life of at least one Romanian child.

Cornel Petrassevich, retired doctor living in Philadelphia, and native Romanian, returned to the States in December from his fourth visit to Romania in the last two years. The purpose of the trips was to try to adopt a child from one of many overcrowded and miserable Romanian orphanages.

His determination was rewarded when he welcomed a new grandnephew, Arthur, to the States on Dec. 20.

After the 1989 dismantling of the Ceausescu dictatorship, Petrassevich was able to visit his homeland after an absence of 22 years.

Though still unable to speak freely about the details of his flight from Romania in 1969, he will speak out against the communist regime that imprisoned him for 16 years, oppressed the church, and impoverished his country. He insists that regime continues to survive, with only nominal changes.

Petrassevich is also able to deliver personal impressions of Southern Baptist missionary and relief efforts in his native country.

While there in December, Petrassevich was awarded an honorary citizenship from his hometown of Lugoj, in eastern Romania.

More than our traditional "key to the city," the honor is reserved for persons who have made significant contributions to the welfare of the

nation, Petrassevich says. He is only the second man to be honored in this way. The first was Nicolae Titulescu, Romania's foreign minister from 1927-36, and former president of the League of Nations. (He has also been honored with a resolution, #498, by the U.S. Senate.)

Included in the ceremonies honoring him was an invitation to visit the First Baptist Church in Lugoj. Flanked by army officers, Catholic bishops, and senators, Petrassevich went to the church, a "fantastic" marble structure on the bank of the Timisul River.

Built to house 2,000 worshippers, the church building is 90% complete outside, finished inside. He was told the cost of the building was \$5 million US.

"It looks like a Greek temple," Petrassevich recalls. "It is an architectural marvel."

"In the middle of all the misery, there is this... building," he says, stretching out his hands to show the magnitude of the structure. "In the middle of this gloom, there is the luxury of this church."

Though beautiful, Petrassevich says, the building is virtually empty.

"Those who do come are the disgruntled, those who want food and clothes," he says.

He adds quickly: "That is one good thing — the church has a good social assistance program which helps distribute clothing and food. Also, the building gives a

good impression, and is certainly meant to last."

"Perhaps ten or 15 years from now, this beautiful church will be full of beautiful people," he continues. "Institutions make people,

"The people see foreign money and building as another attempt to destroy their church, and as proselytizing. This missionary proselytizing is not well-regarded. It is seen as stealing from one church to fill another. Christianity should unite people, not divide them."

Answering questions about whether he believes Southern Baptist work there is misdirected, Petrassevich says:

you know. At first, people make the institutions. Then, over time, the institutions begin to shape the people. So, perhaps in the future, this beautiful building will be one which will have created some hope."

Why is the church empty now?

Petrassevich offers an explanation: "The problem is, you see, that... the centuries-old (Byzantine Rite Orthodox) church was oppressed for so long. It was the first thing to be oppressed and destroyed when the communists took power. The church is broke, all the bishops and clergy are impoverished and have no place to live.

"Indeed, no. In the village of Furlug, the Baptist church has been enthusiastically received. There, during the communist regime, the local priests turned communist informers. So, when an intelligent, well-educated Baptist pastor came in and spoke the Word of God, he

succeeded. That church is full."

According to the Foreign Mission Board's publication, *Your Guide to Foreign Missions*, the Baptist Union of Romania is the second-largest Baptist body in Europe, with about 120,000 Baptists in 1,000 churches. The Union reports 8,000-12,000 baptisms each year and 300 new church starts since the 1989 revolt. It also operates a Bible institute in Bucharest with 138 students.

Other work includes an orphanage and a Bible school in Oradea, both begun by the Second Baptist Church there.

Nine Southern Baptist missionaries (including two International Service Corps personnel), now live in Bucharest.

In May 1991, the Congress of the Union of Christian Baptist Churches held its first unrestricted meeting in nearly 50 years, and a major partnership was recently formalized between the Baptist General Convention of Texas and the Baptist Union of Romania.

Tom Warrington, the FMB's associate area director for Europe, and a native Mississippian, says the future for Baptist work in Romania "is bright. Our relationship with the Baptist Union is positive, and it is a country extremely responsive to the gospel. A lot depends on the work of individual career missionaries, but we are very optimistic."

Romania will be the FMB's focus of prayer, Oct. 26, 1993.



Great seat

BRIDGETON, Mo. (BP) — In a frantic rush to catch a flight for a speaking engagement, Frederick Haynes III was dismayed to find his seat in the economy section had been taken by another passenger. Haynes, pastor of Friendship-West Church in Dallas, speaking during Missouri Baptists' evangelism conference, said his dismay turned to delight when he was given a seat in the deluxe section — until he found out the airplane wasn't bound for the right city. "The devil does not mind you riding first class," Haynes said, "but he's going to make sure you're on the wrong plane."

Chinese radio

BEIJING, China (EP) — Official figures released by the Chinese government show there are 370 million radios in China. A record number of 870,000 shortwave radios were sold within two months after the Tiananmen Square incident in June 1989. Trans World Radio reports that one of its 15-minute Chinese Mandarin broadcasts has the potential to reach more than twice the population of the U.S.



Out of Africa... and back again

By Indy Whitten

February 5, 1993, was a good day for the Mississippi/Zimbabwe Partnership. On that day, Dewey and Betty Merritt arrived in Zimbabwe to begin their two-year African odyssey.

It would be difficult to find a couple more suited for the job. Dewey and Betty, native Mississippians, served as Southern Baptist missionaries in Nigeria for 20 years. Afterward, they were involved in missionary activities in the United States, including Dewey's staff position at the Foreign Mission Board and Betty's consultant position with the Virginia WMU.

"We're excited!" they say. "We have truly felt God's hand in this responsibility to serve as 'on the field coordinators' for the partnership."

"Our two daughters have accepted it with grace and are excited for us. Our house sold for the asking price to the first people who saw it — even before we contacted an

agent or advertised it. Our residence visas for Zimbabwe came through within a month (which is) a record for such applications. We got a call Christmas morning from Harare that we had been approved, a Christmas gift to remember.

"Though we be scattered, we feel connected in His love and our love for each other. Of course, that won't take away the ache of separation — especially from our little granddaughter, Alice.

"Please keep us in your prayers as we walk through this new door of service in Christ's name."

The Merritts' address is:

Baptist Mission
P.O. Box W-197, Waterfalls
Harare, Zimbabwe AFRICA

Whitten and her husband, Charles, are volunteer Prayer Ministry coordinators, MBCB.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Publish glad tidings

The publishing world is not exactly booming. There are splashy exceptions, but over all, the business of the printed page is flat. National magazines are pleading for subscribers, a lottery is being used to increase the sale of reading materials, and only a few best sellers make it across the profit finish line.

Religious printing has not escaped. There is a glut of printing, publishing, and distribution and the readers have yet to catch up. "Publish or perish" is now translated "publish and perish." Numerous mergers such as Thomas Nelson and Word, Zondervan and Harper Collins, have taken place and more are being considered. Desktop publishing is making it easier and less costly to begin and run a printing firm.

The Sunday School Board is "in the process of dying" and could fade away unless steps are taken to revive it, says Board president Jimmy Draper. This statement was probably made more for shock purposes than for fiscal reality.

True, he painted a gloomy pic-

ture of the financial future, but then declared steps are being taken and we are "extremely optimistic about where we are headed."

Associated Baptist Press reports Draper saying there was an 8% decline in literature sales, the Board's top revenue producer. Only four of the publisher's 17 programs made a profit last year.

The Baptist Book Stores lost more than \$5.5 million in sales last year. Draper said steps are being taken to address that decline; the future of the Board is one of "a vital ministering, serving institution." The basic purpose of the Board is to serve the churches, not necessarily to show a profit.

Information channels are changing. Less time spent reading means more time for the tube. Most publishers of the printed page are in the same boat, vying for readers.

This makes it a bit more difficult to understand why the SBC Executive Committee would have a \$774,050 allocation for a proposed new "Convention Relations

Newspaper." The newspaper is proposed to replace the Baptist Program in October 1993. With 39 state papers, numerous institutions with their own publications, plus the vast publications of the Sunday School Board — with nearly all of them losing money — a long hard look should be taken before investing three quarters of million dollars (this is for the first year) in a new newspaper.

This paper will likely reduce the number of subscribers to state papers at a high cost of Cooperative Program funds. Hopefully, its proposal will be voted down at the SBC annual meeting.

Baptist papers have long been the catalyst to draw the churches together for common goals. The paper is a chronicle of the times in which we live, just as they chronicled the times of David — both his kingship and his sins. The newspaper of a state convention is an excellent vehicle for keeping our membership informed, and to get a clear view of what is taking place in our denomination and around the world.

"NO, THE CAR ALLOWANCE IS VERY SMALL. BUT MY SERMON ON 'SACRIFICE' WON THE NOBEL PRIZE!"



The Lord's thunderbolt

In the International Church in Manila we had people from all economic levels. There were embassy personnel and street cleaners, wealthy Chinese bankers and sewing ladies. We met together, worshipped, and then went our separate ways.

We had many beggars. Some were genuinely in need, but many were just professional beggars. I prided myself on being able to distinguish between them. After service one day a Filipino member of the church asked if he could talk with me. I knew immediately what he wanted. He had been baptized just two weeks prior, and now he wanted to put the bite on me.

"Yeah, I guess so, but you will have to wait awhile." I busied myself talking with visitors and other members. Finally with a bit of self-importance I said, "Okay, come on to the office."

He sat on the edge of the chair as if leaning back might defile it. In his hands he held a leather pouch, empty I suspected, which he twisted from time to time. I put the "okay, tell me your story" look on my face. It was evident that his time was limited and every effort was made to let it be known.

He spoke softly: "Pastor, for many years I lived without Christ. My life was filled with much evil and superstition. Finally in deep despair, I began attending this church and soon trusted Christ and as you know, received baptism. The Lord has blessed me. I have a

good job but never did I share with others. In my Sunday School class they speak of tithing and I want to obey God. I have here 700 Pesos. It belongs to the Lord. Would you please accept it for the church."

What surprised me more than the size of the gift (about 6 months' salary) was how my attitude toward him suddenly changed. I became so solicitous: "Please sit over here (in the comfortable chair). Can I get you some tea?" I expressed concern for his family and spoke of how glad we were to have him in the church and implied I was his best friend.

It was on my way home when God's thunderbolt hit and I remembered what the apostle James said: "...For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing fine clothes and say to him, 'You sit here in a good place,' and say to the poor man, 'You stand there,' or 'Sit here at my footstool,' have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts" (James 2:2-4).

I knew then the humble Filipino had exhibited far more of the spirit of Christ than I. He had sat on the footstool of humility and I on the throne of judgment. The student had become the teacher for he had lived the sermon and I had preached it. That was 15 years ago, but the lesson still burns. — GH

March 7-14 is Week of Prayer for Home Missions...

Southern Baptist churches give sacrificially to home missions

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — From Alaska to Louisiana to New Mexico to New Jersey, Southern Baptist churches that give sacrificially to home missions are as different in personality as they are geographically.

* Pansy Church, Crosbyton, Texas, has 24 resident members. The church's attendance in Sunday School ranges from eight to 10. The rural church is made up of retired farmers and several widows. There are no children in the congregation. The population of the community has steadily declined in the last 30 years.

But Pansy Church is determined and that means that they plan to continue to support missions as they have in the past.

Last summer, one member participated in an associational missions trip to New Mexico. The church has seen two members become pastors, one member become a foreign missionary, and one member become a home missionary.

The church supports missions financially. In 1991, they had a total budget of \$22,277. They contributed \$12,013 of this money to missions causes, keeping only

\$10,264 for local expenses.

"We don't have any 'hypes,'" said Bobbie Trull, a member of the church's Baptist Women organization. "We just give the people the information, set our goal, announce the ingathering date, and that's it."

* Near Columbia, Ala., members of Hebron Church give to home missions because they see themselves as accountable to God for every area of their lives, said Pastor Ted Forrester.

When people are educated about missions, their devotion, commitment, and love for the Lord, along with a willingness to be used by God, naturally brings about generous giving, said Betty Sue Forrester, the pastor's wife.

* For First Church of Ruston, La., doing something about home missions means giving both money and people.

"Our church understands the biblical mandate to reach the world and that one of the largest mission fields is the United States," said Patsy Hilton, the church's Woman's Missionary Union director last year. "The members respond to this mandate by giving of their financial resources."

Church members have also volunteered in home missions projects across the country, including Kentucky and Pennsylvania as well as Louisiana and the neighboring states of Texas and Arkansas.

Larry L. Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board, knows the value of members committed to missions in churches across the country.

"Contributions from churches which give so sacrificially to home missions are essential to reaching our Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goal, and consequently reaching our nation for Christ," Lewis said.

Last year was the first time gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions exceeded \$36 million. This year's goal is \$38 million, and any money received over the goal will be used exclusively for starting new churches.

All money received from the offering supports the work of 5,000 home missionaries serving in the United States, Canada, American Samoa, and the Caribbean. No offering funds are used for administrative expenses.

The Baptist Record

VOLUME 117

(ISSN-0005-5778)

NUMBER 3

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

Editor Guy Henderson
Associate Editor William H. Perkins Jr.
Advertising/News writer Teresa Dickens
Editorial Associate Florence Larrimore
Circulation Manager Renee Walley
Bookkeeper Betty Anne Bailey
Proofreader/Secretary Shannon Simpson
Editor Emeritus Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Deborah Brunt, Corinth; Susan Kinton, Walnut Grove; Randy Turner, Laurel; Jackson; Horace Kerr, Brandon; Grady Collins, Philadelphia; Warren Collins, Taylorsville; Teresa Dickens, secretary.

Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Send news, communications, and address changes to
The Editor, Baptist Record
P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205
(601) 968-3800

Mississippi natives appointed by Home Mission Board

Mississippi natives B.J. and Joann Hallmark, Bill Blackwell, and Dale and Patricia Holloway were appointed to mission service by the Home Mission Board in January.

Appointed to serve in Great Falls, Mont., Hallmark will be director of missions for Triangle/Montecello Associations, and Mrs. Hallmark will work in family and church service.

Hallmark is a native of Belmont and graduate of Mississippi State University and New Orleans Seminary. A former high school teacher, Hallmark served as minister of education for churches in

Mississippi from 1974 to 1984. He has served as a pastor in Montana since 1984.

Mrs. Hallmark is a graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton. A Brookhaven native, she is a former teacher and has done volunteer service as a pianist and church clerk.

The Hallmarks have two children, Andrew and Virginia.

Blackwell will serve in West Point, N.Y., as Baptist campus minister of the United States Military Academy.

A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., Blackwell served as an artillery

officer in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1980 to 1990. The Oxford native served as a chaplain for Veterans Administration Medical Center in Louisville, Ky., from 1990 to the time of his mission appointment.

Blackwell will serve with his wife, Diana, who will work in family and church service. The Blackwells have two children, Stuart and Christina.

A native of Florence, Holloway is a graduate of Mississippi College, Pittsburg State College in Kansas, and the University of Mississippi.

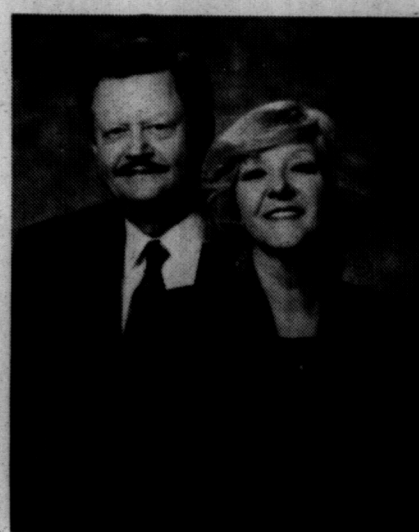
A former pastor, Holloway has

been a national bi-vocational consultant for the Home Mission Board since 1982. He will serve in Florence as a national missionary of bi-vocational ministries.

Mrs. Holloway is a native of Sallis. She is a graduate of Baker University in Baldwin, Kan., Mississippi State University, and Mississippi College.

A former teacher and principal, Mrs. Holloway has done volunteer service as a pianist and organist. She will work in family and church service.

The Holloways have four children, Lewis, Michael, Kimberly, and Jennifer.



Dale and Patricia Holloway

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, February 25, 1993

Published Since 1877

Foreign Mission Board appoints three couples

Three couples with Mississippi ties were among 27 people named missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board Feb. 9 at Ridge Church, Richmond, Va. They were Lori and Rickey F. (Rick) Funderburk, Sue Ellen and Allan Myers, and Bettie and Edward E. Lockwood.

Lori and Rickey Funderburk will

live in Sierra Leone, where he will work as business manager for the mission and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1982 he has been assistant to the vice president for business affairs at New Orleans Seminary. They are members of Calvary Church, New Orleans. Born in Memphis, Tenn., Funderburk is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Neal Funderburk of that city.

He received the bachelor of business administration degree from Memphis State University and also attended New Orleans Seminary. He has been a tax auditor with the Tennessee Department of Revenue in Nashville.

Born in Cleveland, Miss., Mrs. Funderburk, the former Lori Dean, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Freddie Dean of that city. While growing up she also lived in Greenwood. She considers Cleveland her hometown. Calvary Church in Cleveland and Immanuel Church in Greenwood were influential in her Christian growth.

She received the bachelor of science degree from Blue Mountain College and also attended New Orleans Seminary. She has been a teacher with Greenwood Public Schools. She also was a Baptist Student Union summer missionary in Hawaii.

The Funderburks have three children, Audra Claire, born in 1983; Ross Evan, 1986; and Chelsea Leigh, 1988.

Sue Ellen and Allan Myers will live in Nigeria, where he will start and develop churches and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1990 he has been pastor of Waverly First Church in Delhi, La.

Born in Mendenhall, he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Payton Myers, missionaries to Nigeria. He considers West Point, Miss., his hometown and Siloam Church there his home church.

He received the bachelor of arts degree from Mississippi State University and the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary. He also attended Mississippi College.

He has been a consumer affairs coordinator with Bryan Foods in West Point, pastor of Poydras Church, St. Bernard, La., and a Home Mission Board summer church planter in Georgia.

Born and reared in New Iberia, La., Mrs. Myers, the former Sue Ellen Kidd, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kidd of that city. She received the bachelor of science degree from the University of Houston and the doctor of optometry degree from the University of Houston, College of Optometry. She also attended New Orleans Seminary.

She has been an optometrist in (See FMB on page 5)

Al Mohler nominee for Southern post

By Greg Warner and Mark Wingfield

NASHVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — Al Mohler, a 33-year-old Baptist newspaper editor from Atlanta, will be recommended as president of Southern Seminary, according to the seminary's search committee.

If elected, Mohler will succeed retiring president Roy Honeycutt. Mohler formerly served as special assistant to Honeycutt and director of capital funding for Southern. He left that position in 1989 to become editor of the *Christian Index*, weekly newsjournal of Georgia Baptists.

Mohler will be recommended to Southern's trustees when they meet April 19, or sooner if trustees decide to call a special meeting, Wayne Allen, chairman of Southern's trustees, and the search committee, said. Allen said a March meeting devoted only to Mohler's election would allow trustees more time to get to know the candidate.

A native of Lakeland, Fla., Mohler is the only one of four finalists for the post who is both a graduate and one-time employee of Southern. He holds the doctor of philosophy and master of divinity degrees from Southern, in addition to a bachelor of arts degree in religion from Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

If elected, Mohler would be considerably younger than most of the faculty members he would super-

vise. He also would be the youngest president in the seminary's history, except for the school's founder, James P. Boyce, who at 32 became chairman of the faculty at the seminary's founding in 1859.

Allen said Mohler's age "could be seen as a liability, but it could be seen as a strength." He noted that four of Southern's eight previous presidents were in their 30s when elected.

Although Mohler has no classroom teaching experience, Allen said that has not hindered other SBC seminary presidents, including retired Southern president Duke McCall and current presidents Russell Dilday of Southwestern Seminary and Landrum Leavell of New Orleans Seminary.

Mohler is considered by most colleagues to be a capable — some say brilliant — scholar with a confidence that belies his age. Honeycutt said Mohler is an effective fund-raiser who is capable of delineating a vision for the 134-year-old seminary, the Southern Baptist Convention's oldest.

"Personally, I have great confidence in him," the retiring president said. "I predict for him an outstanding career as president."

Allen said Mohler and his wife, Mary, "exude a strong Christian presence," and added their family (See MOHLER on page 6)



Rickey and Lori Funderburk



Edward E. and Bettie Lockwood



Allan and Sue Ellen Myers



B.J. and Joan Hallmark



Bill and Diana Blackwell



Henderson ends term

NASHVILLE — Gene Henderson (left), pastor of First Church, Brandon, accepts a plaque from Sunday School Board President James T. Draper Jr. during the agency's semi-annual trustees meeting, Feb. 8-10. Henderson was among five trustees whose service ends this year. (Photo by Jim Veneman)

March deadline set for broadcast award entries

Radio and video entries for Mississippi Baptists in Broadcasting (MBIB) Awards must be postmarked no later than March 22, 1993. The MBIB Awards have been created to recognize radio and video productions which demonstrate excellence in message design and production in "helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus."

Mississippi Baptists in Broadcasting will be held April 23-24, 1993, at Calvary Church, Jackson.

Awards will be given in:

- Best Program (one award for video — broadcast and non-broadcast — and one for radio, in each category: Mission/Evangelism, Church Musicals, Human Interest, Community Service, and

Sports)

- Best Spot (one award for television, one for radio)

- Creative Use of Television or Radio (one award)

Each entry must include entry form, entry description, and fee (\$5 per entry). Make checks payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. A separate form and fee is required for each category entered. The program should have been aired or viewed prior to March 5, 1993.

Entry forms were included in the December Light Packet which was mailed to all pastors. Additional forms are available from the Department of Broadcast Services, P.O. Box 530, Jackson MS 39205, phone (601) 968-3800.

BSSB media consultant will hold promotional conference

Danny Ayala, consultant in the church media library program of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, will lead a conference based on the book *Promotion Plus!* by Bo Prosser, on Saturday, March 6 from 9:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at First Church, Ayala



The conference is being sponsored by the Alcorn Baptist Church Media Library Association.

tion.

Prosser's book is a basic guide to preparing posters, bulletin boards, displays, and other promotional materials. The conference will focus on untrained persons who perceive themselves as having little or no art skills.

Instruction will be given in the use of free and inexpensive materials that can be used to easily put together effective promotional creations.

For more information, contact Alcorn Association at (601) 286-8215. Lunch will be provided if reservations are made by Tuesday, March 2.

Bivocational retreat cancelled

The Bivocational Ministers' Retreat, set for March 19-20 at Lake Tiak O'Khata, has been cancelled, according to Matt Buckles, consultant in the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, MBCB, which sponsors the retreat.

"For a statewide retreat, a lack of response forces us to cancel," said Buckles. "We will continue to provide area meetings for bivocational ministers which provide more opportunity for attendance."

Congressional bill to counter religious freedom court case

By Paul G. Jones II

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), which would counter the disastrous effects of the 1990 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Employment Division v. Smith*, will be introduced in Congress prior to the first of March.

In the *Smith* decision, the Court removed the requirement that government demonstrate a "compelling state interest" before placing a burden on the free exercise of religion.

Prior to *Smith*, the Court used the "compelling state interest" test to evaluate whether a governmental action unconstitutionally interfered with religious activity, and if the least restrictive means was used to further that interest.

In *Smith*, the Court abandoned the historic standard and concluded that as long as a law was "neutral" and "generally applicable" — that is, did not selectively target a specific religious practice or group — the government need only demonstrate the law is "rationally related to some legitimate government objective."

Since *Smith*, courts have decided against religious claimants in more than 50 cases. Recently, *Smith* was used to zone evangelical churches out of commercial areas and force

How to contact:

Senators

U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Thad Cochran
(202) 224-3034

Trent Lott
(202) 224-6253

Congressmen

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

District One
Jesse Whitman
(202) 225-4306

District Two
Vacant

District Three
G.V. Montgomery
(202) 225-5031

District Four
Mike Parker
(202) 225-5865

District Five
Gene Taylor
(202) 225-5772

Orthodox Jews to accept autopsies, a violation of their religious beliefs. In the future, *Smith* could be used to prohibit public school students from taking off for religious holidays or force students to wear clothing such as gym uniforms that are considered immodest.

RFRA is a bipartisan initiative that will restore protections for free exercise of religion that existed prior to *Smith*. It creates no new rights but only restores those taken by *Smith*. RFRA would simply restore the requirement that government demonstrate any law burdening the free exercise of religion is furthering a compelling state interest and is the least restrictive means of furthering that interest.

Senators and Congressmen from Mississippi need to know of the desire of Mississippi Baptists for RFRA. Citizens wishing to contact their elected officials to encourage them to co-sponsor RFRA can call (202) 224-3121.

The Christian Action Commission (CAC) encourages Mississippi Baptists to contact their Senators and Congressman about this legislation.

Jones is executive director, CAC, Miss. Baptist Convention.

Turmoil displaces missionaries

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Tense political climates in Togo and Zaire continue to block the resumption of most Southern Baptist ministries in the two besieged African nations.

In Togo, recent failed peace talks between feuding political parties have dampened missionaries' hopes of quickly returning to Lome, the capital of the West African country.

Seventeen Southern Baptist mission workers evacuated Lome Feb. 3.

In Zaire, meanwhile, political turmoil forced the last Southern Baptist missionaries to leave Feb. 13. Steve and Anne Seaberry temporarily transferred to Senegal in West Africa.

The Seaberrys had returned to Zaire's capital, Kinshasa, last October after evacuating with two other missionary families in 1991.

In light of the ongoing unrest, displaced missionaries to Togo planned to reassess their situation in a February meeting with Bill Phillips, area director for West Africa.

The Seaberrys' recent decision to leave Zaire came after some 300 people died during clashes between the special guard of President Mobutu Sese Seko and army factions supporting the transitional government of Prime Minister Etienne Tshisekedi.

The unrest has eased in Kinshasa, but daily life hasn't returned to normal. Many shops and schools remain closed and tension in the city runs high. The Seaberrys' transfer also allows their three children — Lendy, 16, Jennifer, 13, and John, 9 — to continue to attend school.

The Seaberrys plan to work in Senegal for the next year and a half. No long-term decision has been made on their return to Zaire.

Gulfshore will host BSU's March leadership training

The spring Leadership Training Conference for the Mississippi Baptist Student Union will be March 26-28 at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian.

Featured speakers include Jim Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, and Jeff Lewis, a Futral

consultant with National Student Ministry of the Baptist Sunday School Board. Also, Jerry Merriman, director of the Mississippi Department of Student Work, will deliver a challenge on Saturday evening to students being commissioned as student summer missionaries.

Special music throughout the weekend will be presented by Kindred Heart, a Jackson music ensemble. Other groups singing will be from



Lewis

Besides leadership seminars for various offices in BSU, there will be special interest seminars offered. These include "Discovering How God Intended for Personalities to Interrelate," "Biblical Models of Leadership," "Discovering Your Gifts and Using Them in Ministry," "Building Character — Who Are You When No One's Looking?" and "Unconventional Wisdom in Leadership."

Blue Mountain and from Mississippi State.



Kindred Heart

HOUSETOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

February 25, 1993

HOUSETOPS is a supplement of the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

"I Want to Start Over..."

by Charles Whitten

Those wonderful words came from an 18-year-old young woman named Angelic McIrvine Brister, who wandered into Baptist Building last Friday. She asked permission to use the telephone, and Sarah Hall pointed her to the phone booth at the back of the building.

Then, with the lingering feeling that the young woman was "troubled," Sarah called the Prayer Ministry office with the suggestion that we might be needed to help her. From our office we look directly out on the telephone. At first Angelic was turning through the phone book with some apparent confusion, and then she dropped her head on to her arm and just stood there motionless.

When Indy touched her on the shoulder, she was startled. But when asked if we could help, she came into the office and there we heard her story: a high school drop-out at 14, from Washington State, she married a Mississippi man 20 months ago. He turned out to be a wife beater, and in desperation she came to Jackson to seek to work out her problems. The solution seemed to be to return to her parents' home in Washington.

She needed information in several areas: Our immediate thought was to turn to the Christian Action Commission. Paul and Beth met Angelic and gave her some very helpful counsel.

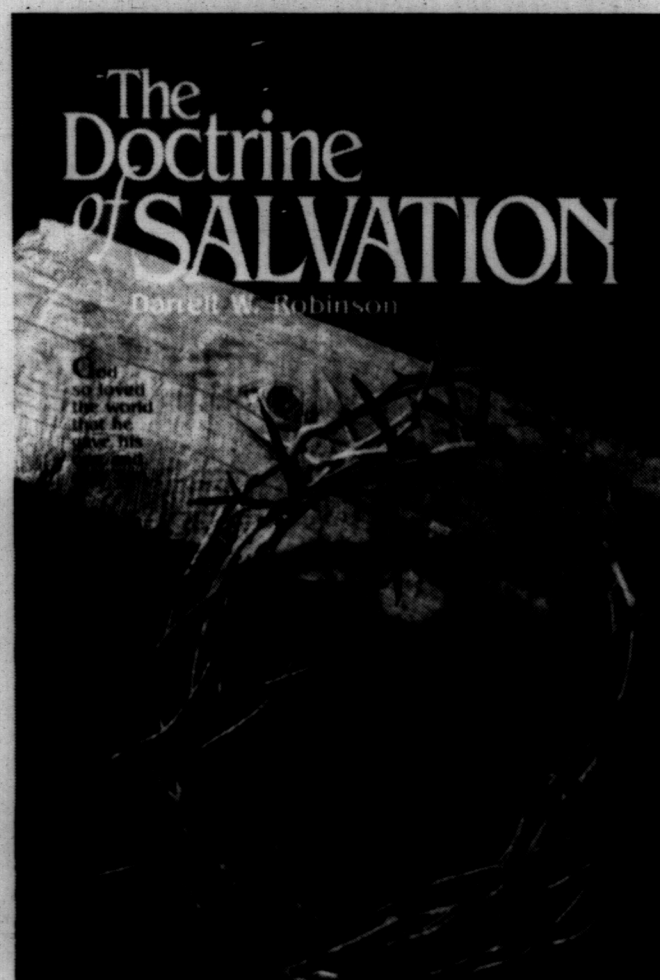
But the best thing of all was Angelic's testimony. The week before in a Shelter for Battered Women in Jackson, she had heard a message on how to be saved. She said, "For the first time in my life, I realized that God loves me and will take me just as I am and give me forgiveness and eternal life."

Angelic did not ask for money. She said she had received unexpected love. She said as she gave Indy a parting hug, "You folks here must be angels."

"Not that I am aware of," was the reply. But I thought to myself, "We could be 'angels unawares' as our love goes out to those who need it."

Charles and Indy Whitten are prayer ministry coordinators working with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

RESTORE THE JOY OF GOD'S SALVATION



1993 Doctrine Study Previews

9:00 - 11:45 a. m.

Monday, March 15

Mississippi State University, BSU

Tuesday, March 16

University of Mississippi, BSU

Wednesday, March 17

Delta State University, BSU

Thursday, March 18

Mississippi College

Friday, March 19

William Carey College

Join other pastors and church leaders as we look at some innovative ways to use the 1993 Doctrine Study to enlighten your congregation and evangelize your community.

For more information call Discipleship Training at 968-3800, extension 3883.



CHURCH WEEKDAY EDUCATION CLINICS

These clinics are designed for church kindergarten and day care workers.

March 6, 1993 **Jackson, FBC**

April 3, 1993 **Oxford, FBC**

For registration information call 968-3800, extension 3887.

PRAYERGRAM

February 25 - March 4, 1993

PRAY for the Jibla, Yemen Baptist Hospital. They have been called to court to answer false charges of forcing Yemenis to become Christians and of using missionary dwellings rented in Jibla Village for evangelistic meetings. The Islamic Party is demanding that the judge close the hospital. Since these proceedings are illegal under Yemeni law, requests for intervention are being made to the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the President of the Republic. Pray for the hospital and wisdom and protection for the missionaries.

JOIN IN THE "30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World," which is being sponsored by a combination of Great Commission Christians—among them the Foreign Mission Board. This will take place Feb. 20-March 23, 1993. Material may be requested from Indy and Charles Whitten, Prayer Coordinators at Baptist Building.

PRAY for Missionary Peggy Thompson who has a ministry with the deaf of Equatorial Guinea (West Africa) She has been very effective in teaching sign language to members of the Malabo Baptist Church. Ask the Lord to open the hearts of many who are hearing the gospel for the first time.

PRAY for the Volunteer Division of the Home Mission Board, as short-term volunteers are contacted. There are many needs in the United States for volunteers: (1 week to 1 year; or 1 year or longer). If you are interested in volunteering, call 1 800 HMB-VOLS.

PRAY for the Home Mission study and Week of Prayer, 1993. Pray that Christian people may become more aware that the United States is a mission field and respond to its needs.

PRAY for Mark Teves, Pago Pago, AS (American Samoa). He is pastor of the Immanuel Baptist Church and asks prayer for the church's year-old mission, Faga Togo Baptist Mission. Pray that the church may raise the money to erect a chapel and a preschool. They are presently meeting in an "open fale" (community building). Pray for genuine conversions out of the Somoan culture-to meet Christ on His terms.

PRAY for the Senior Adult Choir Festival, to be held at Daniel Memorial Baptist Church on March 9, 1993.

PRAY for the Christian Performing Arts Festival to be held at Alta Woods Baptist Church, March 5-6, 1993.

PRAY that love and a cooperative spirit may reign in the Baptist churches of Mississippi and among the members of our churches. Pray that the priorities for the upbuilding of the Kingdom may be kept always before us.

Mississippi Baptist Prayerline
969-PRAY

CWT SEMINAR

A *Continuing Witness Training* Seminar will take place April 5-7 at First Baptist Church in Brandon.

This national seminar is designed to certify individuals in Continuing Witness Training (CWT), a plan for equipping Christians to present the gospel message to others.

Disciplines learned in CWT include intercessory prayer, systematic Bible study, scripture memorization, personal witnessing, and follow-up.

Those completing the course can, in turn, teach the program in their home churches and associations.

The seminar begins on Monday, April 5, with registration at 5:30 p.m. and a banquet at 6:30 p.m. The seminar concludes on Wednesday at 9 p.m.

Keith Walker of the Home Mission Board staff will lead the seminar.

The seminar cost \$75 per person. Pre-registration is required. Write or phone the Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, phone 968-3800.

Early registration is encouraged, said James Fancher of the Evangelism Department, because of preparation needed before attendance—including some scripture memorization.

The program is limited to the first 30 who register.



NEW WORK/MINISTRIES

PROBE

*P*ictured left to right: Clarence Mayo, moderator of the association; J. Ray Grissett, director, Cooperative Missions Department, MBCB; and J.C. Mitchell, director of missions for the Golden Triangle Association.

The Clay Association conducted a New Work/Ministries PROBE throughout the county. Representatives of the local churches studied demographic materials on the churches and county. They surveyed the county by groups riding in vans. The Calvary Church in West Point hosted the training sessions.



HOUSELIONS

PARTNERSHIP NEEDS

Below are listed requested needs from both Zimbabwe and Alaska partnerships. Prayerfully consider donating your time and talents to aid the ongoing ministries and witness in these areas.

ZIMBABWE

Teams of pastors and lay persons to witness and share the gospel in specified villages and conduct evening evangelistic services. The dates are May 17 - June 3; June 14 - July 1; July 12 - 29; September 13 - 30; and October 11 - 28.

Commitments are needed now while the harvest of souls is ready. Contact Bill Hardy at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530 or call (601)968-3800.

ALASKA

Consider some of the following needs by Laverne Griffin Youth Recreation Camp near Anchorage.

Manage camp - (need married couple)

May 25 - September 8

- Supervise cooks & youth staff workers
- General handyman skills

Construction needs

May - August - (12 to 24 people)

- Add a 24' X 70' wing on dining hall
- carpentry, electrical, plumbing

May or early June - (2 to 4 people)

- Build a lean-to, & 10 X 12 room to be placed over existing travel trailer
- Carpentry and electrical skills

May or June - (4 to 8 people)

- Enclose 2 lakeside cabins
- Carpentry, painting, electrical skills

June - 1 week - (4 to 6 people)

- Build canopy over platform at recreation field
- Carpentry skills

June or July - 1 week - (2 to 4 people)

- Set up and repair Atco trailer to use as a maintenance facility
- General handyman and carpentry skills

For information relative to the camp projects, contact Paul Brewer, P. O. Box 141696, Anchorage, Alaska 99514-1696, Telephone: (907)337-5757 or (907)563-6255.

CLEARWATER BAPTIST MISSION

Delta Junction, Alaska

They have expressed the following need:

Mid-June - August

- Set up trailer for parsonage (possible basement and/or garage)
- Bricklaying, carpentry & electrician skills

For information relative to the Clearwater Mission's project, contact Lee Hudman, P. O. Box 907, Delta Junction, Alaska 99737, Telephone: (907)895-4218 or (907)895-4147.

ENRICHMENT FOR SINGLES AND SENIORS

Area Single Adult Book Study

"Challenge and Change in the Single Life"

One-Day Study of Challenge and Change in the Single Life

Area	Date/Time	Location	Contact Person
1	March 20 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Includes Lunch and Recreation	Hernando B/C	Joan Hankins 1124 Town & Country Southaven 38671 342-1978
2	April 17 5:30-9:30 p.m. Supper	FBC, Tupelo	Joe Armour Church & Jefferson St. Tupelo 38801 342-1327
3	April 3 10 a.m.	Best Western Motel Greenwood	Glenn Shows 500 W. Washington Greenwood 38930 453-3075
4	March 27 9:30-12 p.m.	FBC, Starkville	Billy Gore 168 Delwood Columbus 39701 327-9022
5	April 24 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Morrison Hgts., Clinton	Bobby Barton 577 Williams Street Yazoo City 39194 746-5712
8	March 27 8:30-12 p.m.	Immanuel B/C, Hattiesburg	Billy Holyfield 1101 N. Main St. Hattiesburg 39401 544-5444
9	April 3 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Includes Lunch	FBC, Gautier	Cindy Still 1613 Woodhaven Pascagoula 39567 762-2343

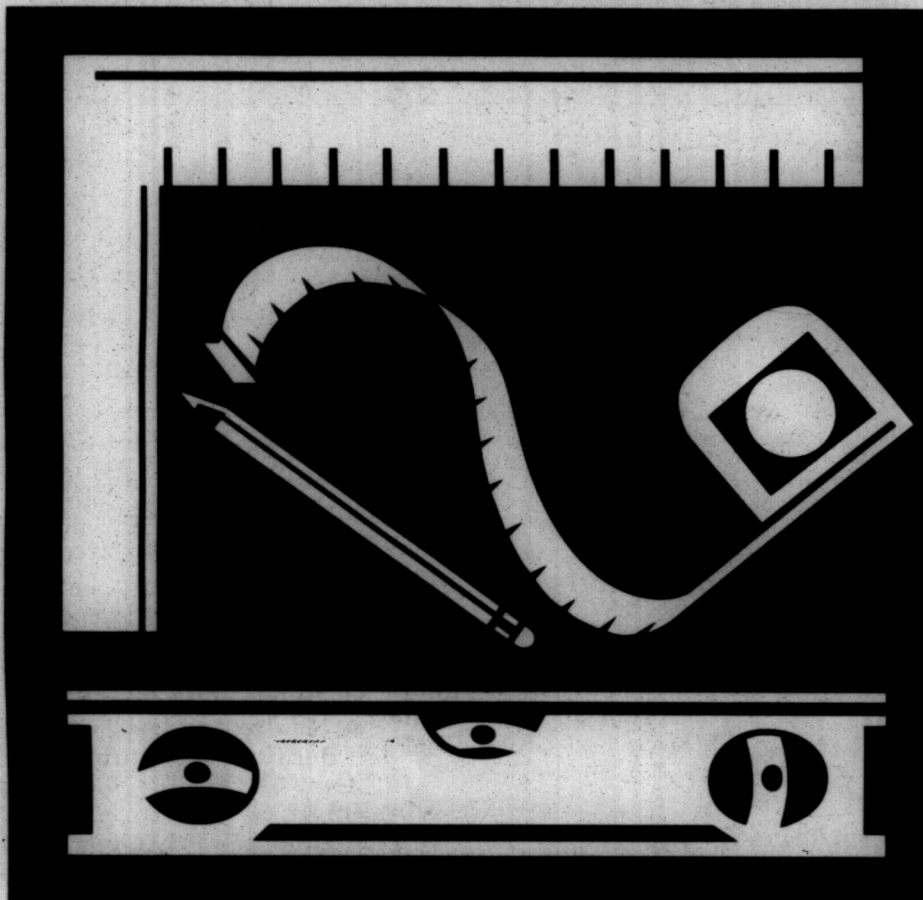
Area Senior Adult Enrichment Meetings

"Coping With Crises in the Senior Years"

9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Area	Date	Location	Contact Person
1	March 29	Hernando B/C	Aaron Lewis 9664 Hwy 304 Hernando 38632 (601)429-6874
2	April 20	FBC, Amory	Charles Stubblefield Box 63, Ecu 38841 (601)489 8048
3	April 8	FBC, Greenville	Barry Worrell 2052 Magnolia Drive Grenada 38901 (601)226-5316
4	April 6	Lake Tiak O'Khata	Levon Moore Route 5, 200 Golf Course Road Kosciusko 39090 (601)289-6059
5	April 8	McLaurin Heights B/C, Pearl	Paul Lee 718 Bowmar Avenue Vicksburg 39180 (601)636-2596
6	April 22	Poplar Springs B/C, Meridian	Talmadge Smith P O Box 363 Brookhaven 39601 (601)833-8111
7	April 15	Liberty B/C	Tom Myers Box 82 Prentiss 39474 (601)792-2620
8	March 25	Covington-Jeff Davis Association Center	Clyde Carraway P O Box 117 Lucedale 39452 (601)947-3441
9	April 13	Gulfshore Baptist Assembly	

Space Problem?



Sunday School Growth Conference

Make plans to attend one of two:

The Ministry of the Cradle Roll Department

Led by Ann Liles, Baptist Sunday School Board

The Ministry of the Homebound Department

Led by James Berthelot, Baptist Sunday School Board

These departments are not housed in your church building.

Tour Schedule:

March 8	9:45-11:45 a.m.	F. B.C., Laurel
March 8	7-9 p.m.	Temple, Hattiesburg
March 9	9:45-11:45 a.m.	F. B.C., Pearl
March 9	7-9 p.m.	F. B.C., Vicksburg
March 10	9:45-11:45 a.m.	F. B.C., Greenwood
March 11	9:45-11:45 a.m.	Colonial Hills, Southaven
March 11	7-9 p.m.	F. B.C., Cleveland

Make plans to attend this **Sunday School Growth Conference**

Sponsored by:

**Mississippi Baptist Convention Board,
Sunday School Department.**

Contact Linda Reeves at 968-3800 for more information.

CHRISTIAN PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

March 5-6, 1993

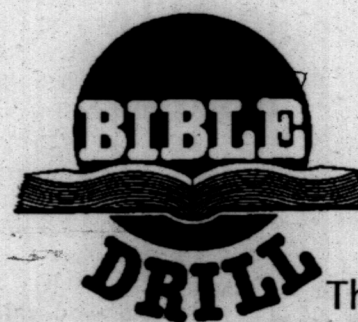
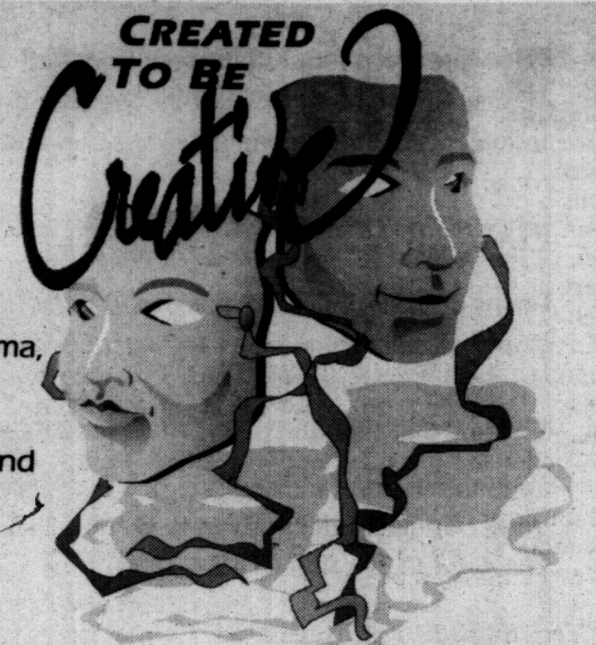
Alta Woods

Baptist Church,
Jackson, Miss.

Training for the Ministry of Drama,
Clowning and Puppetry

Featuring Storyteller Bob Neill and
Branches of FBC, Atlanta

For more details contact Robin
Nichols at 968-3800.



CHURCH DRILL BIBLE DRILL PAK

The Church Drill Pak includes detailed instructions on how to call the church drill, how to prepare for conducting the drill, judging sheets, instructions to judges, the printed calls for the Church Drill, alternate calls and get acquainted drill, numbers and registration slips.

Only one pak is needed for each 12 participants in the Church Drill.

The paks will be mailed by March 15.

Mail the form below to:

Discipleship Training Department
P. O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205

Bible Drill Church Paks Order Form

Name of Church or Bible Drill leader _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

☐ Children's Church Bible Drill Pak (one pak for every 12 participants). Multiple copies of drills as needed if two or more drills are being conducted simultaneously.

☐ Youth Church Bible Drill Pak(s) (one pak for every 12 participants, same as above).

Letters to the editor



Dennis and Nan Allen of Nashville, Tenn. will be at West Heights Church, Pontotoc, for the premiere of their new musical "Solid as the Rock," on Feb. 27 and 28. An associational youth choir consisting of 150 from 12 churches will present the musical. Dennis Allen served as minister of music for 12 years and worked as a music design editor at the Baptist Sunday School Board for five years. The Allens will give a concert at West Heights Church on Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. They will sing at First Church, Pontotoc, during the morning worship on Feb. 28. The musical will be presented at West Heights Church at 2 p.m. on Feb. 28 under the direction of Dennis Allen. Mickey Gentry is minister of music at First Church and James Francis is minister of music at West Heights Church.

Teri Allise Roy of Natchez and Russell Robbins of Clinton will be presented in joint senior voice recital at Mississippi College on March 3 at 3 p.m. in Aven Auditorium. Roy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A.D. Roy Jr., of Natchez will

be accompanied by Carol Joy Sparkman. She is a student of Cynthia Coleman and is a member of Ridgecrest Church, Madison. Robbins, son of Doye and Danie Robbins of Clinton, will have Carol Durham as his accompanist. He is also a student of Coleman and currently serves as minister of music at Grace Church, Philadelphia.

The Winters School of Music at William Carey College will present classical guitarist Mary Akerman in concert at 3 p.m., Feb. 28, in Dumas Smith Auditorium, Thomas Fine Arts Center, on the college's Hattiesburg campus. Akerman, winner of the 1984 Casa de Espana of Puerto Rico Competition and the 1985 Guitar Foundation of American Competition, has recently performed with Robert Shaw and the Atlanta Festival singers. Tickets are \$6 each. For more information, call (601) 582-6175.

"The Dixie Echoes" will be in concert at Antioch Church, Neshoba County, Feb. 29 at 2 p.m. James Long is pastor. For more information, call (601) 986-8761.

15 PASSENGER CHURCH VANS

We have the largest selection of 15 passenger church vans in Mississippi - new and used.

DUB HERRING FORD-LINCOLN-MERCURY
DUB HERRING CHRYSLER-PLYMOUTH-DODGE

We rent vans by the day, week or month.

Call the Hotline 1-800-776-5497

Ask for DONNIE COUNTS-Fleet Manager, or write to
600 Hwy. 11 South, Picayune, MS 39466

CLASSIFIED ADS

RATE: 50 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads.

BIG TOP GOSPEL TENTS, all sizes. Open Air Ministries. (318) 939-2239.

THE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH in Columbus, Miss., is presently looking for a part time minister of music and youth. Any individual who is interested should mail a resume to: Community Baptist Church, Search Committee Chairman, 2490 Yorkville Road East, Columbus, MS 39702 or they may call 327-5306 or 328-2105.

NATIONAL CHURCH FURNITURE manufacturer since 1960 seeks full/part time sales rep in S. Mississippi. Commission sales. Van, wagon, or comparable vehicle needed. Call Steve Smith (800) 234-6624.

SAVE! For \$29 see the Great Passion Play & stay at Keller's Country Dorm Resort for Groups (12 or more) in Eureka Springs, Ark. Lodging (now with more showers!), \$10.50 Tickets, and

meals **ALL INCLUDED!** Call (501) 253-8418 today!

FULL TIME STAFF POSITION: Children and Youth Ministry at the church; teach music at our private elementary school. Send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 4097, Meridian, MS 39304.

ARE YOU CHEATING yourself? Is your future limited? If so... you could be cheating yourself out of a successful sales career with a future! We have an opening for three health insurance agents who wish to earn \$1,000-\$1,500 per week and more. We provide daily pre-set qualified leads. To qualify you must be a licensed agent and a proven producer. Call now for confidential interview: Charles Dudley (800) 377-7107.

CHURCH PEW CUSHIONS: Manufactured in our plant. For free estimate contact — Emmons Brothers, P.O. Box 186, Meridian, Miss. 39301. Since 1899. Phone (601) 693-4451.

American holocaust

Editor:
In World War 2, we thought it was horrible what Hitler did to the Jews. Millions were killed. But right here in America, millions of unborn babies have been slaughtered (1.5 million reported abortions each year since 1973). Is what we're doing to innocent babies any worse than what Hitler did to the Jews? Sort of an American holocaust.

Maybe I'm going to the extreme, but I think it's an issue that should be prayed about fervently. We're supposed to be a Christian nation. If we all would read our Bibles, we'd discover that abortion is wrong, no matter what the circumstances.

Our government has made it the woman's choice. They've sort of washed their hands of it, the same way Pilate washed his hands of Christ. People for abortion say it's unconstitutional for the government to take away a woman's right. When one becomes a Christian he/she no longer belongs to self, but to God. It's no longer just my choice, but God's.

Murder is against the law. Is abortion not murder inside the womb?

I've written these things in hopes that it will make people think and search for the right answer. I don't believe an unborn baby should be sentenced to death for the sins of the parents. The Bible reminds us that God calls persons from the womb into his plan (Judges 13:5, Jer. 1:5; Luke 1:15; Gal. 1:15).

This is dedicated to all the children who were never given the chance to live. The would be doctors, nurses, lawyers, teachers, preachers, missionaries, musicians, scientists, and maybe even president. One of these children might

have even known the cure for cancer or AIDS.

To all of the missed blessings.
Staci Blades
Falkner

Only the gospels

Editor:
In his charge to his disciples just before he went to the cross in the gospel of John 12-17, Jesus tells them he has told them all that the Father told him to tell in seven different places. The most distinctive is recorded in 15:15 and 17:8. Jesus only taught the gospels.

I have been a Baptist for almost three score and ten years, have visited churches of other faiths, and listened to many preachers on TV, to my remembrance I have never

heard any preacher or Sunday School lesson mention this truth in any of them.

In the prayer in Chapter 17, which is the New Covenant in its totality, Jesus tells the Father again in verse 8 that he has given them the Word that he gave. The disciples received them and truly understood that Jesus came forth from the Father and they believed that the Father did send Jesus.

How do we justify spending so much time studying Judasim when this truth has gone begging for almost 2,000 years.

Christian friends, if this is wrong, will someone please straighten me out.

Miley Craft
Jackson

FMB

From page 3

Monroe, La., and at Kidd Vision Center in Franklin, La. She also has been a Home Mission Board summer missionary in Virginia and has done volunteer missions in Kenya, Mexico, South Korea, and Guatemala.

The Myerses are expecting their first child in March.

Bettie and Edward E. Lockwood will live in Rwanda, where he will work as business manager for the mission and they will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

Since 1991 he has been a computer technician at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. They are members of Gambrell Street Church, Fort Worth.

Born in Waverly, Tenn., Lockwood is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lockwood of Dover, Tenn. While growing up he also

lived in Edmond, Okla., Keller, Texas, and Greenville, Miss.

He received the associate of science degree from Mississippi Delta Junior College; the bachelor of applied arts and science degree from Dallas Baptist University; and the master of arts in religious education degree from Southwestern Seminary.

Born in Slate Springs, Miss., Mrs. Lockwood, the former Bettie Hitt, is the daughter of Ruby Hitt of Calhoun City, and the late George Hitt. She also lived in Greenville, Miss., Keller, Texas, and Edmond.

She served in the U.S. Air Force. She has been a shipping coordinator at Cleaver Brooks Co. in Greenville. Recently she was a secretary to the director of personnel at Southwestern Seminary, where she was a student. The Lockwoods have two grown children.

The Funderburk and Myers families will go to Rockville, Va., in June for a seven-week orientation before leaving for their fields of service. The Lockwoods will go to Rockville, Va., in March for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.

First, Tupelo, hosts single adult rally

First Church, Tupelo, is host church to a Northeast Mississippi Single Adult Rally, March 6, at 7 p.m., featuring Paul and Nicole Johnson.

The couple presents the gospel message in drama.

Music will be led by Allen Woodhouse, minister of music at Calvary Church, Cleveland.

The rally is sponsored by the Northeast Mississippi Single Adult Council and the Lee County Baptist Association. Admission is \$5.

OLD BIBLES REBOUND

A price, binding and style to meet every need. Quality workmanship guaranteed. Write for illustrated price folder.

"Internationally known specialists"

NORRIS BOOKBINDING CO.

Box 305-C — Greenwood, Miss. 38930

Dear Pastor:

Are you hurting? Has the world come tumbling down on top of you? Do you feel like all hope is gone for you to ever be happy in the ministry again?

For several years, the Pass Road Baptist Church at Gulfport has had the privilege of nursing back to health many pastors who have been wounded in the ministry. Pastors who have lost either their churches, their families or their confidence.

It has been our joy to see many of them renewed in the spirit and confidence of our Lord and restored in vigor and vitality to lead successful ministries once again.

Beginning March 7 the annual GREATER GULF COAST BIBLE CONFERENCE hosted by Pass Road Baptist Church will convene. This year as every year we will have a great line-up of conference speakers with one goal in mind. That goal? To challenge pastors and lay leaders and those who are hurting to a renewed zeal for the cause of Christ. If you need this blessing in your life, we invite you to participate with us MARCH 7-11.

"SEE OUR AD IN THIS ISSUE FOR DETAILS"

Just for the Record



Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, recently held a recognition service for its Acteens. Pictured, left to right, first row, are Lisa Baugh, Stephanie Williamson, Maria Littlejohn, Jessica Wilke, Malacy Touchstone, Nikki Lisovicz, Melissa Conklin, Bridget Grammer, Glynessa Hinton; second row, Rosa Inserra, Natalie Hall, Lori Huber, Jennifer Bernhardt, Paula Sims, Kelli Oliver, Jennie McCrory, Sona Holcomb; third row, Elaine Lott, Kendra Hust, Jennifer Lott, Angela Inserra, Juliana Wise, Jennifer Carpenter, Laura Barfield, Leanna Barfield, Shellye Emfinger, Jennifer Dowies, and Elyse McCrory.



John Carver, right, Brotherhood director, Gulf Coast Association, and **Glenn Nace**, left, pastor of Kokomo Church, Marion Association, toured the state's Disaster Relief van at a recent Men's Rally. Theme of the rally was "A Few Good Men," and focus was the development of an associational disaster relief team. Nace was speaker at the rally.

Revival Dates

Union, Picayune: Feb. 28-March 3; Sunday, 8:30, 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 10 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.; Gene Williams, president of Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla., evangelist; Ronnie Cottingham, Agricola, music; Terry Ledbetter, pastor.

Slayden Church, Lamar: Feb. 28-Mar. 3; Sunday, 10:55 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jim Futral, Broadmoor Church, Jackson, evangelist; Mike Harland, Crossgates Church, Brandon, music; Bill Hardin, pastor.

MOHLER

From page 3

— which includes a 3-year-old daughter and 1-year-old son — would be a good role model for students.

"The search committee was profoundly influenced by the passion that Al and Mary Mohler have for Southern," the chairman said. "They clearly understand the Southern (Seminary) mystique and are committed to the school."

Mohler spoke of his love for the seminary. "I cannot express to you how precious Southern Seminary is to me. It was that seedbed where the seed of the gospel and seed of my own vocation took root."

Allen said he is confident Mohler can win easy election by

trustees.

"I fully expect God to move in the hearts of trustees as he did with the search committee. I believe Dr. Mohler will receive a very strong vote. I believe it will be a very significant majority of trustees."

Others interviewed for the post were Timothy George, dean of Samford University's divinity school, and Richard Land, executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission.

If elected, Mohler likely will assume the role of president-elect sometime this summer. Honeycutt is expected to remain at the seminary until Dec. 31, his announced retirement date.

Warner is editor, Associated Baptist Press; Wingfield is news director, Kentucky WESTERN RECORDER.

Former minister Lett dies

Howard Lee Lett, a member of Oak Forest Church, Jackson, died Feb. 17 at age 60.

The Tuscaloosa, Ala., native was educated at Jones County Junior College, the University of Southern Mississippi, Southwestern Seminary, and Stanford University

in Palo Alto, Calif.

Lett served Calvary Church, Jackson, as minister of education from 1961-65. Later, he was widely known as a broadcast journalist.

He is survived by his wife, Jacklyn; two daughters; four sons; and eight grandchildren.

Staff Changes



Harrison

Handsboro Church, Gulfport, has called **George Harrison**, retired professor of New Orleans Seminary, as minister of education and visitation.

James L. Shaddix is the new pastor of **Pine Grove Church, Picayune**, effective Jan. 10. He received his doctoral degree at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He previously served Arlington Park Church, Arlington, Texas.

Second Avenue Church, Laurel, has called **Robert E. Wallace** of Kokomo, Ind., as activities director. Wallace is a student at William Carey College, Hattiesburg. The church also announces the resignation of **Milfred Valentine** after 27 years of service to the church.

Steve Walker has been called as part-time minister of music at **Highland Church, Crystal Springs**. He was educated at the University of Southern Mississippi.



Walker

Greater Gulf Coast Bible Conference

Pass Road Baptist Church, Gulfport

March 7-11, 1993

5 services daily

9 a.m.

10 a.m. 6 p.m.

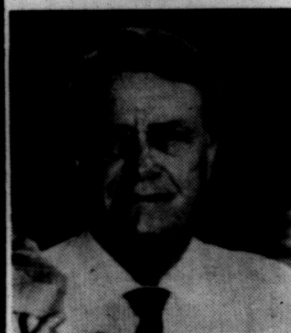
11 a.m. 7 p.m.

Nursery provided all services

Reservations Shoney's Inn Airport
(601) 868-8500



Edgar Jackson
Pastor



Jack Taylor



Herb Hodges



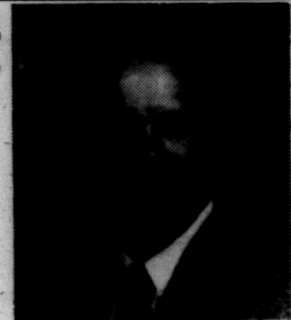
Gerald & Cindy
Simmons
Staff music evangelists



Wade Trimmer



The Hill Family
Word and music evangelists



Bobby McClellan
Minister/music



Paul & Billie Kaye
Tsika



Doug White



The Balltzgiers
Music evangelists

208 Pass Road, Gulfport, MS 39507 (601) 863-1697



**U-SAVE
AUTORENTAL®**

12 and 15 Passenger Vans &
Mini-Vans Available

We are now booking
reservations for van and car rentals

Bus Supply Company
Hwy. 98 East, McComb, MS 39648
(601) 684-2900 1-800-748-8681

Uniform Committed to teach



By Chuck Pourciau
2 Timothy 2:14-26

The nominating committee is undoubtedly the most difficult, annual, non-paid job in the work of the church. Every year the members of this committee spend many hours praying about and working toward the filling of the teaching positions of the church. It matters not how large the church is. It seems that we always go down to the wire in filling these all important teaching positions. Yet a church member does not have to fill a formal teaching position to be a teacher of the Word of God. All Christians are given the responsibility and the opportunity to teach the Bible. Paul instructed Timothy in how to be a good teacher.

A good teacher has the Word of God as his focus (vv. 14-15). Paul urged Timothy to keep reminding the people of the church to refrain from quarreling concerning words. The exact meaning of this phrase is open to debate, but we know that it involved an incorrect handling of the Word of God. This is evident by the way Paul immediately instructed Timothy to be an example of one who correctly handled the Word. A likely solution is that they were so enamored with endless theological debate that they were not properly teaching the Bible.

The Bible is not taught until it is applied to the present day. It doesn't matter if the teacher knows what the Pharisees had for breakfast on Thursday mornings if he is not in touch with the struggles his class members are going through every morning.

Therefore Paul urged Timothy to be an example of a godly teacher (v. 15). The example of a teacher is much more important than his words.

A good teacher must carefully choose his words (vv. 16-19). Paul urged Timothy to be an example in the avoidance of godless chatter. Paul here provided a teaching and a reason. The teaching is a warning to avoid useless debates and arguments about spiritual matters. Avoid fruitless debate. Teach the Word both in word and deed.

The reason for the warning is that this endless babbling can damage the faith of those being taught (v. 17). Teachers are given a tremendous responsibility, and they only have their students for a short time. They must not damage their students' view of the Bible by wasting that time.

A good teacher must strive to spiritual purity (vv. 20-21). Two truths stand out in these two verses. First, teaching preparation involves much more than the study of the lesson for the coming Sunday. The teacher must prepare himself along with the lesson. A teacher who has not purified himself will not be able to receive an accurate understanding of the Scripture from the Holy Spirit. How many intelligent and thorough teachers do we have who are never prepared spiritually? Second, the teacher does much more than just teach the Bible. In 2:21 Paul wrote that the teacher was to be prepared to do any good work. Bible teaching is a ministry that involves much more than just the explanation of Scriptural truths. It involves meeting the needs of the students, whatever those needs may be.

A good teacher must provide a consistent, positive, Christian example (vv. 22-23). Paul then showed how important the teacher's lifestyle is to the teaching of the Word of God. He urged Timothy to pursue "righteousness, faith, love, and peace." A teacher whose life is not an example of the Word he teaches will be a very ineffective teacher regardless of how well he knows the historical facts of the Bible.

A good teacher must not show partiality (vv. 24-26). The teacher must be gentle and patient with all his students. Not all students will always agree with him, and those who disagree will respond differently. Some may even make personal attacks on the teacher. Yet the teacher must continue to teach, love, and minister to all his students in the same fashion. A successful teacher is one who encourages questions and learns from his students. He must not quarrel with those students who may hold views contrary to Scripture. He must continue to speak the truth in love. A teacher's students will rarely agree with him on everything, but he can see to it that they do always respect him.

Paul has taught us here that being a teacher is a great responsibility that requires much preparation. One thing is certain. It requires much more than an apple a day.

Pourciau is pastor, First Church, Louisville.

Bible Book Thanks for deliverance



By Guy A. Hughes
Psalms 18, 66, 121

I love the true story written by Deborah Rose in the book *His Mysterious Ways*. She was leaving her job at a fast food restaurant late one evening with a box of chicken, wrapped in plastic. Unable to afford a cab, she set out on the dark streets of Milwaukee praying God would see her home safely.

A man with a knife leaped from the shadows, dragging her away, speaking of vile things he would do to her. Why had God forsaken me, she thought. Then clearly she heard a firm voice say, "Debbie, eat your chicken."

"Am I losing my mind?" she thought.

"Debbie, eat your chicken."

Crying and pulling on the wrapping, she was yanked violently along. Two large dogs, heads in spilled garbaged cans, caught a whiff of the chicken and pursued it. Growling, they bared their teeth. The attacker dropped Deborah and fled. Tearing the meat off piece by piece, she dropped them along the road as the dogs escorted her safely home. Her faith was stronger in God's ability to deliver his people from their enemies.

Thanksgiving for deliverance from enemies (18:46-50). "The Lord lives! Praise be to my rock!" is a majestic cry of confidence of a man who knew the power of God. Can we not trust our God to see us through every circumstance and situation? He hides us in the cleft of a rock and covers us there with his hand. Let the enemy rage! "He is the God who avenges me." A popular insurance commercial of yesteryear asked the question, "Do you have a piece of the rock?" There is no greater security in knowing our Lord Jesus lives and is the rock of our salvation. His kindness is unfailing!

A personal testimony of praise (66:13-19). In a time of distress the psalmist had made a vow. God answered his prayer and now gratitude was in order. He brought a burnt offering to God's house to symbolize his total commitment to God. Regular, sacrificial worship is a very important part of giving thanks to God for his deliverance. He spoke praise of God in voice and tongue. A person who has experienced the redemption of the Lord desires to give his personal testimony through song and speech. Silence would be ingratitude. Verse 18 gives us a strong caution: "If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened." Our neglect to praise coupled with an unrepentant heart will cause God to turn a deaf ear to our cry for help. However, he will not withhold his love from those who truly seek him.

Thanksgiving for God's protection (121:1-8). The temple was located upon a hill overlooking the city of Jerusalem. As worshippers would "ascend the hill of the Lord" they would sing "I will lift up my eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help. My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." He does not sleep for his eyes constantly range the earth. It is a comforting thought to know nothing happens which is not under the all-seeing eye of God. When God spoke creation into being a vast universe with billions of brightly burning stars, rotating planets, and mountainous moons came to be. The earth is filled with energy evident in the bolt of lightning and the wind force of a hurricane and tornado. John Phillips said, "A God who has that kind of energy is not likely to need an afternoon nap, so we can forget the problem of weariness. We humans get tired, but God never does." There is no greater security system in the world than the presence of the Almighty God in the midst of his children.

Sin and suffering will harm us in this world, but God's people are afforded complete protection and deliverance in the world to come. Augustus Toplady, a few hours before his death put it like this, "My heart beats every day stronger and stronger for glory. Sickness is no affliction, pain no curse, death itself no dissolution. My prayers are all converted to praises." Years earlier he had written the hymn "Rock of Ages," whose last verse says this:

While I draw this fleeting breath, when my eyes shall close in death,

When I rise to worlds unknown, And behold thee on the throne,

Rock of ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee.
Hughes is pastor, Friendship Church, Grenada.

Life and Work Worship and renewal



By Laura Russell
Genesis 35:1-4, 9-14

As we close this series of lessons, we can see that Jacob's life clearly demonstrates the love of God. Despite the human element that often threatens to upset God's program, the Lord does not lose his patience nor abandon his promise to those whom he has called.

God tells Jacob to return to Bethel (v. 1). God's command to Jacob to go up to Bethel rounds out the story of Jacob's association with this religious site. The vow which Jacob had made there when he was fleeing from Esau is now fulfilled. No doubt Jacob had failed to keep this vow in his years at Haran. Bethel was forgotten. But for God's people, he will remind them of neglected duties, one way or another, by conscience or by providences.

Jacob prepares for the journey (vv. 2-4). In preparation for the pilgrimage to the place where God had appeared to him, Jacob orders his household to give him their idols and foreign gods so that he could bury them. His household also purified themselves with ceremonial washings and changed their clothes as a sign of their inward renewal before God. Jacob ordered his household to destroy all their idols. Unless we remove idols from our lives, they can ruin our faith. What idols do we have? An idol is anything we put before God. Idols don't have to be physical objects, they can be thoughts or desires. Like Jacob, we should get rid of anything that could stand between us and God.

God appears to Jacob at Bethel (vv. 9-12). When Jacob comes to Bethel God appears to him and changes his name to Israel. He renews the blessing of numerous seed and the Promised Land which he gave to Abraham and Isaac. God reminded Jacob of his new name, which meant "a prince who prevails with God." Although Jacob's life was filled with struggles, difficulties, and trials, his new name was a tribute to his desire to stay close to God despite life's disappointments. God assured Jacob that his new name would be a constant reminder of his new character, his new relation to God, and his kingly walk in the divine way of life. Through worship God reminds believers of the new identity that is theirs because of their relationship with him. Also, through worship, God reminds us of his identity, power, commands, and promises.

Jacob sets up a pillar (vv. 13-14). In response to such a loving God, Jacob worshiped the Lord by setting up a sacred pillar and by pouring oil and drink offering on the stone at Bethel. The oil was olive oil of the finest grade of purity. It was expensive, so using it showed the high value placed on the anointed object. Jacob was showing the greatest respect for the place where he met with God. Although this act is a repetition of what transpired in Genesis 28:18, it, like the appearance of God, is a second and distinct act: God appeared twice; Jacob anointed a stone twice. We, as believers like Jacob, often attach special significance to places where meaningful experiences of worship and renewal have occurred. But we must realize and remember that every worship experience is an opportunity for renewal.

God calls us all back to Bethel. Have you previously met the Lord and responded to him through worshipful words and deeds? What obstacles have entered your life during the time since your Bethel experience? What hinders you from worshipping the Lord in spirit and in truth? Rid yourself of all the internal and external obstructions which restrict your open relationship with the Lord. "Arise, go up to Bethel."

Russell is a member of First Church, Brandon.



capsules

PROTESTANT LEADERS IN CUBA REQUEST MEETING WITH CLINTON: MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Leaders of six Protestant bodies in Cuba have written to newly-elected U.S. President Bill Clinton requesting a meeting "to promote the best relations between our two countries." The Dec. 2, 1992, letter was sent to then President-elect Clinton at his office in Little Rock, Ark. In their letter, the six Protestant leaders, including Baptist pastor Raul Suarez, said "We have been impressed by the theme of your electoral campaign calling for a 'change,' and requested 'the opportunity to meet with you, as soon as possible... and thus dialogue in the Christian spirit regarding the life and mission of the churches in Cuba....' The letter was signed by Joel Ajo, Methodist bishop; Emilio J. Hernandez, Episcopal bishop; Orestes Gonzales, president of the Ecumenical Council; Carlos Camps, secretary general of the Reformed Presbyterian Church; and Suarez, a leader of the Fraternity of Baptist Churches in Cuba, past president of the Ecumenical Council, and pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Havana. A copy of the letter was faxed to Ken Sehested, executive director of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America by Suarez in January. Noting that Clinton had yet to respond to the letter, Suarez asked that the BPFNA pass along copies of the December letter to Clinton to other Baptist leaders in the U.S. and to urge Clinton's response.

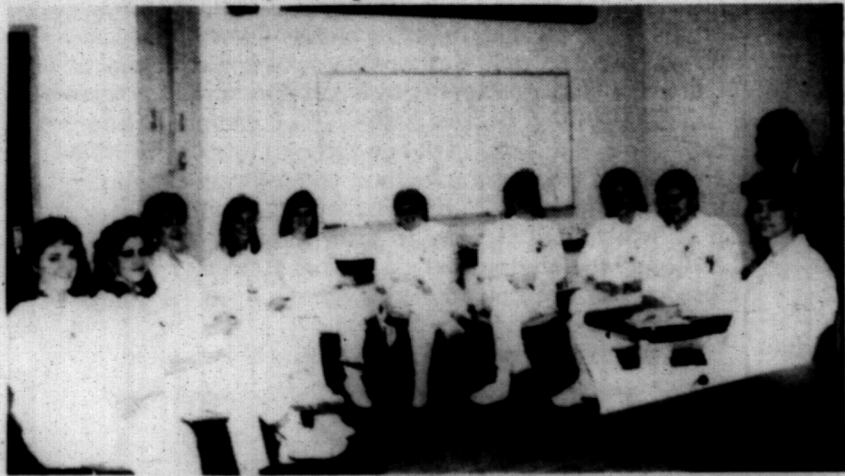
COST OF OPERATING HOME MISSION BOARD IN 1993: Total Home Mission Board Proposed Budget: \$86,026,461; Cost per month, \$7,168,872; Cost per week, 1,654,355; Cost per day, 235,689; Cost per hour, 9,820; Cost per minute, 164; 1993 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering Allocations National Offering Goal: \$38 million.

HOME MISSION BOARD STATISTICS:

- * Less than half (42%) of all Americans attend church in a typical week.
- * By 2010, one-third to one-half of the world's positions in politics, business, education, science, and military service will be filled by people trained in the United States.
- * 76% of America's population lives in 277 metropolitan areas. Yet, only 41% of Southern Baptist churches and 57% of resident members are in urban areas.
- * 459 counties in the United States have no Southern Baptist church or mission. Of these, 425 urgently need at least one new church. Pray that congregations will be planted so 4 million unchurched people living in these counties can be reached for Christ.

GOLDEN GATE SEMINARY CHAIRMAN RESIGNS FROM BOARD OF TRUSTEES: MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP) — John D. Morgan, pastor of Sagemont Church, Houston, Texas, has resigned from the board of trustees at Golden Gate Seminary to devote more time to his church. Morgan, elected chairman of the board in April 1992, has been a trustee since 1986. In a Feb. 8 letter to the board, the Texas pastor indicated he wanted to spend time "totally devoted" to his church. Board vice chairman Rob Zinn, pastor of Immanuel Church in San Bernardino, Calif., will assume chairmanship of the board. The 38-member board of trustees will hold its annual meeting April 19-21.

JACKSON LATER MET HIS 'BEST FRIENDS': MOBILE, Ala. (BP) — Richard Jackson admitted "I never wanted to be pastor of a Baptist church to start with," during Alabama Baptists' evangelism conference. Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Church in Arizona, continued: "I wanted to be an evangelist or a military chaplain — something that didn't have a WMU and a board of deacons. But you need to understand that in 35 years I've learned the best friends I have are deacons and WMU ladies, so I was just stupid."



MBMC's BSU plans flea market

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's BSU executive council held a February retreat to plan second semester BSU activities for the Medical Technology and Radiography schools. Dates for Flea Market for Missions (March 1, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.) and Religious Emphasis Week (March 15-16) were set. Pictured from left are Wanda Harrison, Delena Pullen, Stacey Brown, Tara Wyatt, Amanda Jones, Shannon Nipper, Kay Sills, May Killebrew, Stacey McNeil, Kathy Bearden, BSU director, and Dale Ellison.

TV violence causes concern for experts studying effects

Television violence is once again on the increase, according to the National Coalition on Television Violence (NCTV), with at least one-quarter of major network prime-time programming rated as very violent during the 1992 fall season.

NCTV researchers named Fox network as the most violent, with nearly 11 acts of violence per hour. CBS was next with over nine acts of violence per hour, while NBC and ABC were in a virtual tie with approximately seven acts of violence per hour.

Overall statistics indicate that the "Big Three" networks (ABC, CBS, and NBC) averaged 7.7 violent acts per hour of prime time, which was down from the 8.6 average posted last year.

Researchers caution that the level of violence on television is still significantly greater than the level recorded when NCTV began

its monitoring project in 1980, and the portrayal of violence has grown more intense and callous.

NCTV also reports that while only 8% of TV programs were high in violence prior to 1956, violence reached record levels in the

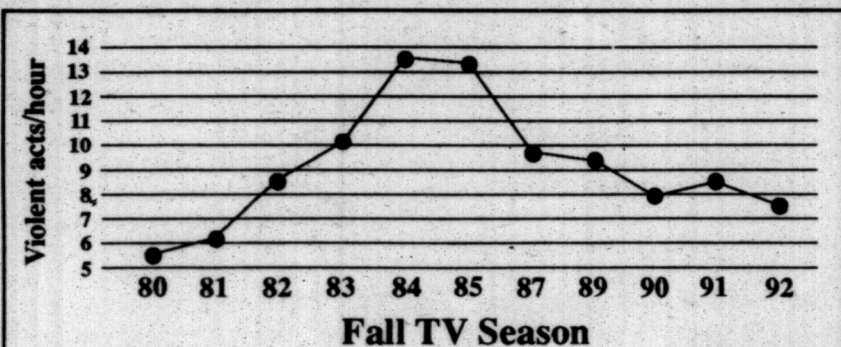
ber, said, "Violent programs are inextricably connected with the increased violence in our country. The shows glamorize violence and portray it as commonplace. We... become desensitized to the violence, more accepting of it, and alas, more prone to practice it as a way of solving life's problems."

"Media violence is the number one health problem in America today," added Carole Lieberman, a Beverly Hills, Calif., psychiatrist and chair of the NCTV.

"Our current

research is not intended to implicate only the networks, since independent and cable stations have even higher levels of violence. All those in the media as well as all viewers must work together to curb our society's addiction to media violence," she pointed out.

For more information, contact NCTV at P.O. Box 2157, Champaign, IL 61825.



mid-1980s, with almost half of the viewing hours containing high levels of violence.

Neilson ratings for programs high in violence continue to be low for the seventh year in a row, according to NCTV, and most violent shows consistently rank in the lower half of the Neilson ratings.

Robert Gould, a New York psychiatrist and NCTV board mem-

Too much TV outweighs concern over TV content

NASHVILLE (BP) — Christians should be more concerned over the loss of time spent watching TV than the content of shows, claimed a Christian author and professor during the Baptist Center for Ethics conference on families Feb. 15-16 in Nashville.

Quentin Schultze, communications professor at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., said, "The Christian community loves to blast all the secular humanists in Hollywood... but a lot of that anger is there because we don't have our own houses in order."

He reported the average child in the United States watches three and a half hours of TV a day but only spends an average of 12-15 minutes a day with his or her mother and an average of two to four minutes per day with the father.

Adults watch an average of four and a half hours of TV a day. In contrast to 31 and a half hours of TV per week, spouses spend 17 minutes communicating each week, Schultze said.

"Outside of working and sleeping, it is what defines us as a culture," said Schultze, who is the author of *Redeeming Television: How TV Changes Christians — How Christians Can Change TV*.

He pointed out God made people communicative beings not only to spread the gospel but to

witness through relationships. When Christians choose to watch TV rather than communicate, they are choosing selfishness and desire for immediate gratification through the power of the remote control, he said.

In his research, he has determined families suffer because time is not spent on building families. Crucial events in the memories of grown children like playing games, physical activities, and vacations are disappearing, Schultze said.

Rather than boycotting TV, which results in ostracism of youth by peer groups, he recommends Christians develop discernment for TV watching.

Parents should protect youth and children from inappropriate viewing by considering their developmental needs, he said. Children younger than 8 years of age cannot grasp abstract messages. Individual fears of children should be considered. Very young children need slow-paced programming, he continued. Fast-paced images grab attention but are confusing, he said.

Consider the goals of the TV producers, Schultze said. To hook viewers and thus make profit, it has become more than entertainment. "TV is like all the other media. It is really in the business of identity," he said.

To find role models, the producers don't go to churches,

schools, parents, or traditional social institutions, but rather the peer group of the audience. Thus role models for teens in TV and movies are macho males and ideal females, Schultze said.

With such "culturally fabricated ideals," teens feel enormous but unrealistic pressure to conform, he noted.

The Christian community should become proactive, said Schultze, by producing video reviews to assist family viewing choices.

Baptist Record

005-DTM 291 2-25
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SD 00
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203

Fe

993

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205